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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

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July 30, 1998

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On four occasions: March 9, 1998, March 31, 1998, June 11, 1998, and most recently July 17, 1998, I have written you or your staff requesting assistance with the Chinese government in obtaining bank records from the Bank of China. Our most recent letter of July 17 requested a response by July 23. Once again, we have heard nothing but deafening silence from you and your staff.

As I have indicated previously, the Committee is unable to obtain essential information from China and several other countries without the assistance of your administration, especially the State Department. Time and time again our Committee investigators have followed the trail of illegal campaign contributions to the United States border only to be thwarted from proceeding any further upon identifying the foreign source.

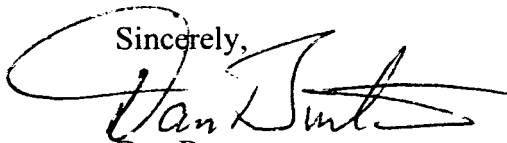
Mr. President, President Jiang of China has repeatedly denied the existence of a covert scheme to influence our electoral process. As I have noted before, I believe we should verify not just trust these blanket denials which I believe will not be upheld if we had access to the original bank records.

If you are serious about determining whether the Chinese government or anyone else attempted to influence our political process as you say you are, it is essential that we utilize the resources of your Administration to assist congressional and Justice Department investigators. To date little has been done. I renew my request for assistance with foreign governments in obtaining crucial financial information. I also renew my request that a full accounting of actions taken by the Administration to assist in obtaining these records be provided to the Committee by August 7, 1998.

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President William J. Clinton

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Dan Burton
Chairman

cc: Mr. Samuel R. Berger,
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

Hon. Henry A. Waxman